

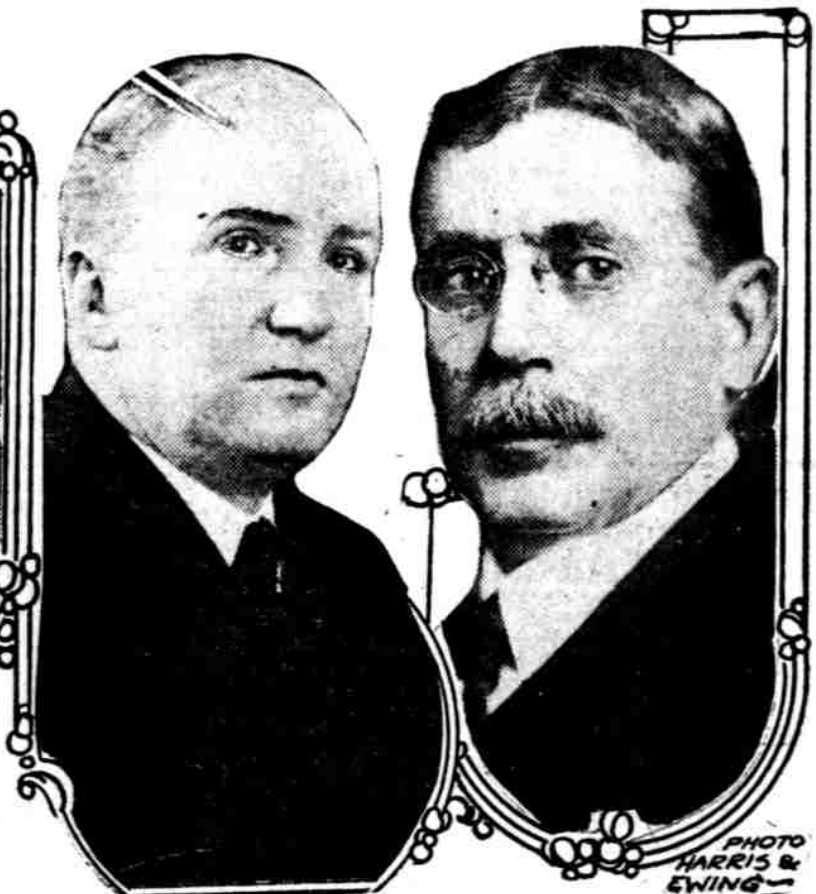
Some Fans Favor More Hits and Runs, Others Prefer Battle of the Pitchers

PRESIDENT WILSON.

VICE PRESIDENT MARSHALL.

JOSEPH P. TUMULTY.

COL. CHESTER HARDING.



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MRS. FRED A. BRITTEN.
One Of The Greatest Women "Fans" Who Likes the Game As It Is.

Wilson, Marshall, and Tumulty Like to See All the Players in Action, Which Makes Excitement.

Is there too much pitcher in baseball? Do you think that the mountaineers predominate the game to too great an extent under the present rules, and would you rather see free hitting, base running, and more frequent scoring? The questions have been asked many times by those who are most deeply interested in the game, but it seems that an acceptable majority opinion has been found, or at any rate there is no proposal for an increase of hitting that has found favor with those who rule the game. The pitching science in baseball, with the development of Johnson, Methewson, Walsh, and the others, seems to have the edge on batting prowess. Would it be a good thing for a change in rules that would throw the balance just a little away from the pitcher?

Among the best known and most prominent Washington fans there seems to be a decided difference of opinion. Mrs. Fred A. Britten, one of the great set of woman fans, says no to all of these inquiries. "Vice President Marshall and Joe Tumulty, private secretary and assistant to the President, says more hitting by all means. The issue as to the most popular phase of the game is pertinent at this time because of a generally complained falling off in baseball attendance, following the coming of the Federal League.

She Favors Pitchers' Battles.
"The greatest moment in any ball game, the moment of keenest and most intense excitement, is the close play at the plate upon which the winning run scores," declares Mrs. Britten. "It is not logical to conclude that you might spread this one supreme moment over nine innings of willfully scoring. The psychology of the sportsman is all wrong. With the opponents of the home team three runs to the good in the first inning the home fans would not get much excitement out of seeing them splash over run after run for the succeeding eight innings.

"An occasional 'batfest' is keenly appreciated, if the home team does the batting," Mrs. Britten continued, "but this would not do as a regular diet for the fans. The fame and popularity of baseball has grown and increased in inverse ratio throughout the years as the pitchers have gained mastery, and scoring has decreased. It is well to think of this. It is not much fun to see men march up to the plate and then march back again, but you are always waiting for that moment when the break comes.

With the other style game there would be no such moment. It would be continuous and doubtless tiresome performance. In polo, in football or any other game of skill spectators do not want to see either side score almost at will, running the points up, with only a question of which side could outdo the other in free and easy scoring. With this sort of scoring games would be less closely contested and other departments of the game would have to give way for batting supremacy, and there would not be the keen balance of the present game.

Tumulty and Wilson Like Hits.
"I like a nice close game," continued Mrs. Britten, "it is more exciting than a 'slugging' fight. The pitcher has fairly won his commanding position, and I think he should not be handicapped. No, there should certainly be no change in rules."

Joseph P. Tumulty, Secretary to the President, thinks, on the other hand, that there should be more batting and some way devised to suppress the pitchers who have obtained a mastery of the game.

"I like to see plenty of hitting and base running, and I believe the majority of fans feel the same way," he said. "The real interest and excitement in the game is the hitting and base running. Give the batters a 'pillulah' once in a while at least, and let them 'swat the cover off the ball.' This brings the fans to the game of enthusiasm. Give me more of it."

By unwritten law, the President of the United States must not be directly quoted, except in a formal statement, but there is little doubt that he agrees with Secretary Tumulty, that there should be plenty of hitting, for he did not attend a game this year until he knew that Ty Cobb was going to face the pitcher.

"I presume if I were to witness a game of baseball in which there were twenty-seven strikeouts on each side, I would find it somewhat tedious, but if there were half a dozen hits by the home team and twenty-seven strikeouts on the other side, I would feel that I had passed a very enjoyable afternoon.

"Any game of skill that is one-sided is monotonous, and the main interest arises from the exciting moments during its course. With plenty of hitting and base running, the spectators see all the members of the team in action and critical moments are likely to occur.

game becomes anything but entertaining when there is no hitting and running," declares the Vice President. "I believe in plenty of hitting. This means that the game will be full of thrills. It will take on all of its old-time spectacular effects and will grip with interest the great masses acquainted and unacquainted with the finer points of the game known as 'inside baseball.'

"Every fan likes to see a hit made, likes to see the runners on the bases and the matching of skill which ensues from every player in the field to keep the batter from hitting safely and bring the runner or runners home.

"With free hitting, baseball becomes a game in which ten, eleven or more participate at one time. Every man in the game at the moment is keyed to his highest pitch and who ensues is generally a thriller. With 'air-tight' pitching, the contest dwindles to a duel in which two pitchers and two catchers and a batter is entered."

"Which is the most entertaining?" "Baseball at present needs less 'air-tight' pitching and more hitting. The game will die a quick death if this type of pitching continues."

"I think the Washington team has a good chance to win the pennant. We must not be too critical with the team. It is doing its best and even if it does not come out with the flag at the end of the season, it will be way up in front at any rate."

Judge Force, chief clerk of the Comptroller of the Treasury's office, and one of the greatest of Washington fans, is opposed to more hitting.

"I like the scientific game, one in which every advantage taken counts no matter how slight it may be. I believe the fans consciously or unconsciously like the same sort of game. They will talk about a close pitchers' battle and the winning run for weeks, while a 12 to 10 game would never be mentioned."

"I like," he said, "to see a great clout now and then, but such a clout is only great because of its rarity. Should they be commonplace there would be no joy in them."

The fans like to hear the solid ring of ash meeting the horizontal bat. It would never do as a regular diet. District Commissioner Frederick L. Siddons believes that it is a matter of taste and that both the pitchers' battle and the 'half-cent' have appreciation and keen enjoyment. The Commissioner gives a terse and pointed summarization of his views. He says:

"For the science of the game I think the pitcher who can hold down the batter is the man, but for the excitement you want to see the men getting around the bases, and the other fellows after them."

Flowers for Funerals

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Flowers for Funerals

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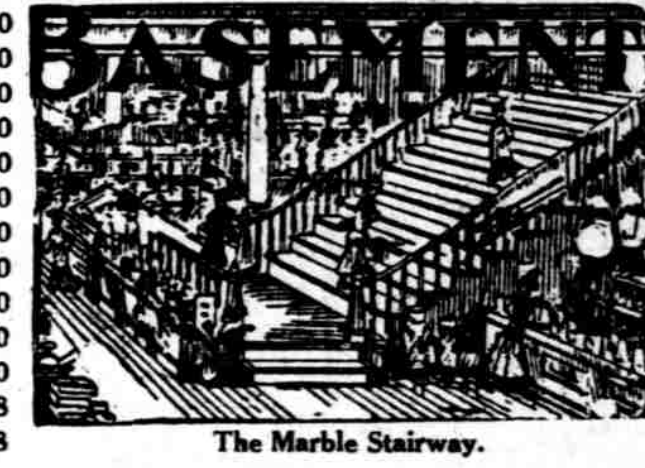
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- 25c Knit Drawers.....19c
- 10c Knit Vests.....5c
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- \$2.98 Silk Waists.....\$1.85
- 12 1/2c Hose, in colors.....6c
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